



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7440

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EXTRADITED COCAINE KINGPINS GET SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that today in Midland, Texas, Hernaldo Perea Beltran was sentenced to 35 years imprisonment and his brother, Jesus Beltran, was sentenced to 236 months imprisonment for conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine. Previously, Hernaldo and Jesus' brothers, Raul and Rodolfo Beltran, were sentenced to 20 years and 12 years imprisonment, respectively, for the same crime.

"These brothers were responsible for moving massive amounts of cocaine through the Midland/Odessa corridor," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton. "Today, they paid the price for selling this poison in our communities."

From January 1991 through April 2001, the Beltrons led a criminal enterprise that imported in excess of 6,000 kilograms and as much as 26,000 kilograms of cocaine from Juarez, Mexico, through El Paso, Texas, for distribution in and around Midland, Odessa, Dallas and Kansas City. Over time, there were at least 15 criminal participants beneath the leadership that loaded, transported and distributed cocaine, returned proceeds from cocaine sales to the Beltran brothers, and/or acted as retail distributors based on "fronted" cocaine on behalf of this organization.

The Beltran organization sold each kilogram of cocaine for between \$16,000 and \$20,000 depending on the amount purchased by the buyer, the ability and dependability of the buyer to quickly sell the cocaine and return the money owed to the Beltran organization, the price and available supply of cocaine in Mexico and the demand in the United States. The cocaine was either sold outright for cash or "fronted" on consignment to the purchaser or a combination of both.

When the arrests began in this investigation in December 2000, the Beltran brothers fled to Mexico. They were fugitives from justice until their apprehension on the evening of December 31, 2001, by the Mexican Agencia Federales Investigaciones (AFI) in Juarez based on a provisional arrest request by the United States. Thanks to assistance from the Mexican Attorney General's Office and Foreign Ministry, the Beltran brothers were ordered extradited to the United States by the Mexican courts in November 2004.

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton commended the Midland-Odessa DEA Task Force, the lead investigative unit for this case, and the United States Border Patrol, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Midland County Sheriff's Office, Midland Police Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, Pecos (TX) Police Department, Reeves County (TX) Sheriff's Office, the Kansas City (KS) DEA Task Force and the Culberson County (TX) Sheriff's Office. During this investigation, over 27 kilograms of cocaine and more than \$200,000 were seized by law enforcement authorities. Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Roomberg prosecuted this case for the government.

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